IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 30 (as numbered) with:

The invention also offers the possibility to reduce inaccuracies in the positioning as a result of sliding the strips over the splicing table 7, as shown in figures 2A-2D. The splicing table 7 has an imaginary longitudinal centre line 16 dividing the splicing table 7 into a first splicing table half 17 and a second splicing table half 18. The splicing table 7 further has an inlet end 19 and an outlet end 20. A first splicing table transport unit 21 ~~is placed~~ on the first splicing table half 1~~7, and~~7 extends from the inlet end 19 of the splicing table 7 up to a distance ~~from~~ towards the ~~inlet~~ outlet end ~~19~~ 20 of the splicing table 7. Because of this, half of a supplied strip can be placed on the first splicing table transport unit 21, and for instance by synchronised drive with the second transport unit 5 the strip can be supplied in position on the splicing table 7 without loss of accuracy.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 10 (as numbered) with:

When after two strips have been spliced together they have to be discharged from the table, it is additionally advantageous when a second splicing table transport unit 22 has been placed on the second splicing table half 18, and extends from the outlet end 20 of the splicing table 7 up to a distance therefrom towards the inlet end 19.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 22 (as numbered) with:

Although it is shown in the figures that the splicing table transport units 21 and 22 only partially extend over the splicing table 7, it is also possible alternatively that they extend over the entire length of the splicing table 7. The operation in principle remains the same, on the understanding that the first half of the splicing table transport unit 21 needs to have sufficient clamping force to supply the material slip-free, whereas the second half has to be able to run under the already passed strip 40, without the strip position being changed. To that end means for generating a vacuum ~~of~~ or magnetic field for retaining the strip may be provided in the first part, and a so-called air-floatation system may be provided in the second part. With regard to the splicing table transport unit 22 the placing of the means for generating a vacuum or magnetic field and the air-floatation system is the other way round.